

00862.023315



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
YOSHIAKI KABURAGI. ) : Examiner: Unassigned  
Application No.: 10/706,941 ) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: November 14, 2003 ) :  
For: PRINTING APPARATUS AND )  
PRINTING CONTROL METHOD : January 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. In accordance with the OG Notice dated August 5, 2003, entitled "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003" (copy enclosed), a copy of only the listed foreign document is enclosed.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 9-226185 is discussed at page 3 of the specification and may be relevant for the reasons discussed therein.

U.S. Patent Nos. 4,723,129, 4,740,796, 4,463,359 and 4,345,262 are discussed at page 32 of the specification and may be relevant for the reasons discussed therein.

U.S. Patent No. 4,313,124 is discussed at page 33 of the specification and may be relevant for the reasons discussed therein.

An abstract for Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 9-226185, obtained from a commercial database, is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

#### FORMAL MATTERS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the subject application, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>00862.023315</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/706,941</b>	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				APPLICANT <b>YOSHIAKI KABURAGI</b>			
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				FILING DATE <b>November 14, 2003</b>		GROUP <b>Unassigned</b>	
January 29, 2004							
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		<b>4,313,124</b>	<b>01/1982</b>	<b>Hara</b>			
		<b>4,345,262</b>	<b>08/1982</b>	<b>Shirato et al.</b>			
		<b>4,463,359</b>	<b>07/1984</b>	<b>Ayata et al.</b>			
		<b>4,723,129</b>	<b>02/1988</b>	<b>Endo et al.</b>			
		<b>4,740,796</b>	<b>04/1988</b>	<b>Endo et al.</b>			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		<b>JP 9-226185</b>	<b>09/1997</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicants.

## United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notices: 05 August 2003

Information Disclosure Statements  
May Be Filed Without Copies of  
U.S. Patents and Published Applications in  
Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003

### Background

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) regulations concerning Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) currently require that copies of the cited references be submitted with the IDS listing. See 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). In a prior notice in the Official Gazette this requirement was partially waived with respect to U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when an applicant submitted an IDS using the Office's electronic filing system (as an electronic IDS, eIDS). See Legal Framework for the Use of the Electronic Filing System, 1263 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 60, 10/8/2002, Part V.

All U.S. applications<sup>1</sup> filed after June 30, 2003 are stored in electronic form in the Office's Image File Wrapper (IFW) system.<sup>2</sup> IDSs submitted for these electronic applications are processed by Office staff to create an electronic link which permits cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications to be conveniently viewed by examiners through the Office's patent search system. This feature enables the Office to avoid scanning these documents into IFW, obviating the need for their submission.

### Waiver

The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b). For all patent applications filed on or before June 30, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are still required unless an eIDS is filed.

Applicants are still required to submit copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning this waiver may be submitted to Jay Lucas by e-mail at Jay.Lucas@uspto.gov or by telephone at (703) 308-6868. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Comments - Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by facsimile to (703) 305-2919, marked to the attention of Jay Lucas.

STEPHEN G. KUNIN  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Patent Examination Policy

1 Except in special situations, such as in applications under secrecy order or containing national security markings.

2 See Notification of United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent Application Records being Stored and Processed in Electronic Form, 1271 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 100, 6/17 2003.